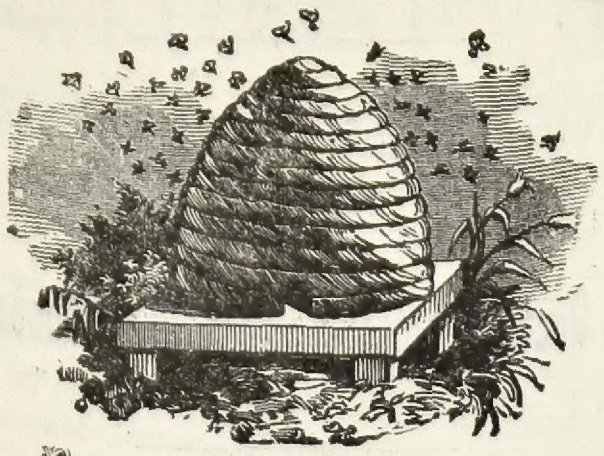
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THE Academic Review.

A Journal of the

POLYSOPHICAL SOCIETY

—: OF THE :—

Brigham Young Academy,

PROVO, - - - - - UTAH.

Devoted to Science, Literature and Art.

VOL. I. **DECEMBER, 1884.** No. 3.

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THE ACADEMIC REVIEW.

Brigham Young Academy, Provo, Utah.

VOL. I. **DECEMBER. 1884,** NO. 3.

THE SUN.

A lecture was delivered before Section A, on the evening of November 21, by President J. E. Talmage, upon the above subject. The remarks of the speaker were illustrated by the aid of lantern views and diagrams, which traced the sun from its supposed nebular origin to its present condition. The diameter of our central luminary is usually stated at 860,000 miles, which means that a mountain on the sun, to bear the same relation to that body as do the Himalayas to our earth, would have to be 600 miles high. If our earth were placed at the centre of the solar body, the moon could revolve about its primary at the mean distance of 238,000 miles, and there would be still 200,000 miles beyond to the crust of the sun. It would require 1,245,000 earths such as ours to form a body equal to the sun, and the weight of the latter is estimated at nearly two octillions of tons. Though the supposed density of the sun is far below that of the earth, and consequently the attraction would not be increased in proportion to the excessive bulk, yet the attraction at the sun's equator is supposed to be not less than 27 times that on the earth, so that a man of a terrestrial weight of 150 lbs. would weigh on the sun about 4,080 lbs.

The figures representing the sun's distance were shown to be no less incomprehensible. The accepted distance is 92,880,000 miles, to traverse which, a train moving at the rate of 30 miles per hour would require 353 years, and the fare for the journey (without return ticket) at 4 cents per mile would be $3,715,200. To quote another illustration, suppose a man had an arm reaching to the sun, and should burn his finger, considering the velocity of the nerve force as 100 feet per second, he would require 77½ years to discover the fact.

The solar prominences, as seen at the instant of totality during eclipses, and by the aid of the spectroscope, were illustrated and explained. This was followed by detailed photographs of the surface of the solar disc showing the "rice-grain" and "willow-leaf" appearances, and the occurrence of the Faculae. Sun-spots were explained, and the history of their discovery was dwelt upon. Sometimes spots are visible to the naked eye, and estimated measurements often give astounding figures. Shroeter measured a spot over 29,000 miles diameter; Sir John Herschell names one of 50,000. In 1839 Capt. Davis estimated one at 186,000 miles. One earth could lie at the bottom of such a chasm (if the Wilson theory of the structure of spots be correct) "as a boulder in the crater of a volcano." Much has been said, and more hinted at, regarding the periodicity of sun spots, and the influence of the same on the earth for weal or woe; but regarding this, little is definitely known. The years 1859 and 1860 were both rich in sun spots, yet one was a fruitful year, and one almost a season of famine in Europe.

Wilson & Herschell somewhat spoiled their reputation by suggesting that beneath the fiery photosphere of the sun, there existed a cool body, probably habitable; though the solar denizens would be denied an outlook into space except through the occasional rifts in the envelope, which appear to us as spots.

The Academic Review,

Published in eight numbers per Academic Year by the

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—— of the ——

Brigham Young Academy, Provo, Utah.

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MANAGING AND LOCAL EDITORS:—The Chairmen of the Sections.

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OUR DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION.

Not the least among the peculiar features of the Academy is the Domestic Organization, which, by its many ramifications, extends a controlling influence far beyond the walls of the Academy building and the regular school hours; being, in fact, on account of its thoroughness, a co-operative factor with our Theological Organization, a short outline of which was laid before our readers in our last issue. By far the larger number of the students being from abroad, and scattered throughout the city in various boarding places, it became evident soon after the opening of the institution, that plans would have to be adopted by which these young gentlemen and ladies, grown up under varieties of circumstances, dispositions and influences, could be brought under the guidance of that spirit which forms, as it were, the very atmosphere of this Academy. The Board, Principal and Faculty were united in their endeavors to redeem their pledges made to the people, that the students, while under the care of the institution, should be looked after as well as if at home; and measures were proposed, adopted and put into execution, which, dictated by a spirit of kind consideration for the welfare of the students, guaranteed to the parents a security for the mental and moral development of their children—in many instances not to be found with sufficient thoroughness at home.

Fully acquainted with many of the disadvantages and even ill consequences of the boarding house system prevailing in the schools and academies of America and Europe on the one hand, and the pernicious principle of espionage or individual surveillance as practiced in some institutions, the authorities of the B. Y. Academy placed every student entering the institution upon his *word of honor* for the conscientious observance of the regulations, calling his attention to the deplorable condition of one that should have to be considered and declared a moral bankrupt.

This principle of mutual confidence, until forfeited in single instances, pervades all intercourse between teachers and students of the Academy; and it cultivates a power of self-control in the minds of the young people which otherwise would remain undeveloped among a great many, for every one feels that he has a reputation to sustain—not only of himself, but also of the institution of which he is a member.

There are Seniors appointed in the various boarding places; student visitors are appointed to visit bi-weekly certain districts; the teachers take turns for the same period of time in visiting, counseling and advising; and all the students meet every alternate Thursday at 4 p. m. to hear the reports of Seniors and visitors and to receive instructions on general conduct. These regulations, however, would prove futile in the end if not co-operated with and supported by the labors of the Theological Organiza-

tion and the general mode of discipline, of which they form only a co-ordinate part, and to which they stand in mutual relationship.

Although the Brigham Young Academy is not a house of correction, it rejoices in the reclaiming of many a wayward youth to the path of honor and usefulness, and to the principles of truth and godliness.

THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE EARTH

Was the subject of a public lecture delivered by the President of the Polysophical Society on Saturday evening, Nov. 29, and was illustrated by numerous and excellent lantern views. After dwelling upon the supposed origin of our earth, the speaker cited the most important arguments for and against the belief in a molten interior within a comparatively thin crust, and pointed out the evident conclusion that the crust must be undoubtedly thicker than has been traditionally believed for years. The formation of strata, and the dislocation and contortion of the same by volcanic and eruptive agencies next claimed attention; which was followed with remarks on the occurrence of living organisms in the later Eozoic and Paleozoic Rocks. The *Trilobites, Crinoids, Corals* and *Ammonites* fossils were shown; followed by the flora and fauna of the Devonian Age. This was the age of fishes—all being of the Ganoid and Placoid orders; of which there were shown *Pterichthys, Cephalaspis, Cocosteus* and *Dinichthys*—fishes with skull shields large enough to protect the head of an elephant, strong enough to resist a musket ball, and hard enough to strike fire with flint. The Carboniferous Age was noted for its rank vegetation—monstrous tree-ferns and club-mosses—*Calamites* reaching to the height of twenty ieet, while the only representatives of the kind now extant—the "horse-tails"—scarcely even exceed two feet; *Lepidodendra* over sixty feet high—with impressions on the stems resembling the scales of a Ganoid fish, and hence the name(meaning scale-stemmed); *Sigillaria* (seal marked)—supposed to have reached the height of ninety or more feet; while flattened stems have been brought to light in the Pennsylvania collieries, with a width of five feet.

The Mesozoic Age, or age of reptiles, was represented by the hideous *Plesiosaurus*—twenty-five or more feet long, with whale-like paddles of seven feet in length; the *Ichthyosaurus* a fish lizard; the *Megalosaurus*; the bat-like *Pterodactyl* with a spread of wings of twenty or twenty-five feet; the *Iguanodon*, the *Hylaeosaurus* and the *Mosasaurus*.

Among the mammals of the Cenozoic Age, there were represented the *Paleotherium, Aneplotherium, Megatherium, Glyptodon* and *Mammoth*; and among birds, the *Dodo*.

Then Man is supposed to have appeared on the scene, and with his advent, the labors of the Geologist end; for "Geology, which is the story of the rocks, finds its climax in History which is the story of man."

ANCIENT AND MODERN CLASSICS.

A lecture on the above subject was delivered before the Polysophical Society, Section A, by Principal K. G. Maeser, on Friday evening, December 5. The lecturer introduced his remarks by alluding to the controversies among philologists and educators concerning the respective merits of the study of the ancient classics, especially the Greek and Latin, and of the modern classics, as particularly represented by the English, German, French and Spanish, stating the benefits derived from the study of

the Greek and Latin in regard to the peculiar mental training afforded by it, but at the same time acknowledging that the pursuit of modern classics, aside from the attainment of the same training, offered additional advantages to the student by introducing him to the knowledge of languages, which could be turned to a far more practical purpose. The exclusive utilitarian point of view, however, could not be taken as the only standard of judgment in this important question, as a scientific basis demands abstract principles as essential elements for its construction; the philologists claiming that they are guided in their conclusions and deductions the same as mathematicians and other scientists. The lecturer continued in showing from the history of the past, the reasons why the Greek and Latin had obtained such universal sway among the civilized nations of the earth, and enunciating some of the characteristics of each of these languages, demonstrating thereby their intrinsic value and rightful claim to the supremacy over other languages of antiquity and the middle ages. Alluding to the historical law that conquerors of an inferior civilization always succumb to the language, habits and institutions of their superior victims, he showed how the Goths and other barbarians at the time of the migration of nations had adopted in a great measure the language, laws and views of life of their subdued opponents; how the Portugese, Spanish, French, Italian and in some measure even the English languages have the traces of the once undisputed dominion of the Latin in Western Europe, and the nations of the East were still subjected to some extent to the influence of the once allpowerful Greek. As the ruins of Central and South America to-day testify to the existence of a past civilization covering these countries in remote ages, so see we yet traces and fragments of the old Latin rule in almost all the languages of western Europe. This autocracy of the Latin in the middle ages was so firmly established that no scientific pursuit of any kind would be had except by means of the Latin, so that religion, law, literature and science was entirely under the control of that tongue. Isolated cases of secession became noted at the end of the middle ages, received a powerful impetus by the Bible translations at the time of the Reformation, and have developed now to a clearly defined "Declaration of Independence" on the part of many educators and scientists. Acknowledging many of the claims of these repudiators as just and well founded, we must, however, not shut our eyes to some facts that deserve the most earnest consideration. It will be observed, that all scientific terms of any kind are taken either from the Greek or Latin, on account of their significant and eloquent brevity, and the circumstance of their being dead languages, enabling them thus to become cosmopolitan more than any other tongue. For this reason it will always be necessary for professional philologists to become thoroughly acquainted with the Greek and Latin, for literary men of a higher type, as poets for instance, to do the same, and for orators not to disregard the models which a Demosthenes and Cicero have set up. As no painter, architect or sculptor can perfect himself in his respective art without the study of the ancient Greek masters, so at the present stage of development of literature and science, their devotees cannot build up a modern superstructure without a thorough knowledge of the foundation that has been laid by ancient Greece and Rome, and our high schools, therefore, will still have to continue to prepare men for science and literature by introducing them to those languages.

IMPURE DRINKING WATER.

At the meeting of Section A, held December 5, President J. E. Talmage presented a brief address on the subject of "Impure Drinking Water." He referred to the action recently taken by the New York Board of Health, in condemning all the wells of that city, and to the opinion expressed by Dr. Edson that cholera is nearly always communicated through the medium of drinking water. Sanitary inspection has been instrumental in revealing cases of startling neglect in many large cities. Dr. Billings, Asst.-Surgeon-General U. S. A., testifies to a filthy condition of the wells of Washington, owing to the close communication between them and the sewers, and as a convincing proof of his statements, refers to the numerous *sulphur wells* of that city.

The speaker pointed out that in small towns there is less danger of sewerage contamination except through local proximity to drains, cesspools or the like; and quoted the results of some examinations recently conducted by himself in the Laboratory of the Academy. Reckless carelessness seems to exist as to preventing the entrance of dust and such foreign matters into the wells; for nearly a fourth of the specimens of Provo well water thus far examined have been seen to contain suspended particles which under the microscope reveal themselves as half decayed fibres of straw, wood, cotton and wool. Determinations of the organic matter present in the samples were made by the aid of the delicate process of "Nesslerization," and below are presented some examples of the quantities of ammonia obtained as a result of the decomposition of organic matter, expressed in parts by weight per million:

	FREE AMMONIA.	ALBUMINOID AMMONIA.
SAMPLE A	0.13	0.14
" B	0.08	0.80
" C	0.10	1.80
" D	1.00	1.31
" E	0.80	1.36
" F	0.66	1.60
" G	2.51	3.33
" H	0.73	5.40
" I	3.73	5.80

"H" was a sample of water from an indoors pump; and the fact was elicited without enquiry that dysentery and such disorders were common among all who used the water. From the comparatively small proportion of free ammonia and of chlorine present in the sample, and the excessive amount of albuminoid ammonia, the opinion is warranted that the water is heavily charged with vegetable impurity. Sample "I" is from a surface spring at the base of the eastern bench, and is especially foul. As an evidence of the significance of such results, the opinion of *Wanklyn was quoted * * "I should be inclined to regard with some suspicion a water yielding a considerable quantity of free ammonia, along with 0.05 parts of albuminoid ammonia per million * * * Albuminoid ammonia above 0.10 per million begins to be a very suspicious sign; and over 0.15 ought to condemn a water absolutely."

It was remarked that such a state of the water of this or of any other city would prove itself an admirable conductor for the spread of any contagion which may appear; and the speaker ventured to express a hope that Provo would at an early date possess a water supply which could be properly guarded from contamination; but, until such is the case, since the danger is a general

* See "Water Analysis," by J. Alfred Wanklyn, M. R. C. S. London, Trubner & Co., 1874. pp. 51-52.

one, a systematic examination of all sources of drinking water in the city should be ordered, and all waters found unfit for use should be authoritatively condemned.

MODE OF ANCIENT NOTATION IN MUSIC.

A question concerning the above having been handed in in Section B of the Polysophical Society, was answered by Principal K. G. Maeser at some length. He stated that the condition of music in antiquity until a comparatively recent date had been very primitive. Although music of some kind or other had been cultivated to a greater or less extent probably among all nations in the remotest ages, written music was of much later date. The Old Testament mentions Jubal, as an inventor of musical instruments before the Flood; the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians and Assyrians had musicians, and the Hebrews were celebrated through Psalms as devotees to sacred music; and all nations had their war songs, martial music and devotional chants. These facts, however, must not be taken as indicative of musical efficiency equal to ours in any respect. The eminent Greeks only knew what is called recitative singing, the singing corresponding to the words and meter of the poetry, and indicated the different modulations of voice by letters of the alphabet, so probably did all other nations and the Hebrews. The latter added the double chorus consisting of octaves representing the male and female voices. Only with the rise of Christianity did a regular notation of music become necessary. Out of the old chant of the primitive Christians, the Choral developed itself, written by notes of equal length. Pope Gregory the Great caused a more elaborate harmony to be introduced, and the system of notation was perfected accordingly. Bars, pauses and other signs, with the different forms of notes indicating different values, the staff of lines and spaces were added in the fourteenth century; the counterbase was developed, and with Palestrina at the end of the fifteenth century the present system of notation, in the main came in practice.

RICHARD WAGNER.

The above was the subject of a lecture by Principal Karl G. Maeser before Section B, for Music and Fine Arts, on the evening of November 14. After presenting a brief outline of the life of the great Master, the lecturer illustrated the peculiarities and aims of the compositions of Richard Wagner, by describing some of the features of the operas, "The Flying Dutchman," "The Meistersinger" and "Tannhaeuser." Contrasting the nature of the operas of other compositors and those of Wagner, the speaker endeavored to illustrate the character of the style of music introduced by Wagner, and called the "Music of the Future." He concluded his lecture by describing Wagner's construction of the new Opera House as Baierruth, and giving some incidents of Wagner's great operas, "Lohengrin" and "Percifal."

THE VOICE.

A short lecture was delivered before Section B, on the evening of November 28, by the Chairman, Willard Done. The perfection of the human voice as a musical instrument was pointed out, and its multiple modifications as in articulate sounds was dwelt upon. The production of sounds of widely varying pitch and timbre was cited as being among the most wonderful of voice characteristics; combinations of which, according to definite rules, give origin to melody and harmony. The larynx, which is

the organ of voice, is situated in the throat, and is in the form of a cartilaginous box, across the openings of which the vocal cords are placed. The cords, by their different degrees of tension, produce the variations in pitch. The necessity of strict care in diet and regimen as a means of development of the voice was stated to be as great as in that of any other of the bodily functions.

PLUNDER.

A Prussian mining engineer has recently announced a comparative easy method of tunneling and excavating in quicksands. His plan is to freeze the sand over the section which it is desired to excavate, and then work it as solid rock. Bore-holes are sunk and pipes let into the ground, through which a freezing mixture of the chlorides of calcium and magnesium is circulated, abstracting heat from the loose and water-bearing ground until it is frozen into a solid mass.

An investigation has recently been carried on at the instance of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution of Great Britain, on the effects of oiling the waves during angry seas. It was demonstrated that very little oil indeed was necessary to cover a considerable surface with film, through which moderately sized rollers were entirely unable to break, and could prove their presence only as a harmless swell. The results of the investigation show that the effects of oiling the waves have been far over-rated by enthusiastic authors, though the power of an oil film to "kill" any ordinary breaker is above question; and the process may be considered as a valuable protection to small open boats.

An interesting account of the methods employed in fishing in Jalisco, Mexico, has recently been written by Consul Lambert. The fishermen collect the fibrous roots of a small plant called *verbasco*, which with water forms a milky emulsion. This when thrown into the water blinds the fish, which are easily collected by placing fish gates in the stream. The milk of the *ava* tree is also used, which has the effect of killing the fish at once. A law exists against poisoning fish, though it is practically inoperative as the natives are very careful that every fish shows a spear wound when brought to market. No ill effects are reported from eating fish killed in this way.

KERNELS.

December receives its name from *decem* (ten), and in the time of Romulus was tenth month of the year. The introduction of January and February by Numa 713 B. C., made it the twelfth.

Sheridan, the scholar, wit and spendthrift being dunned by a tailor to pay at least the interest on his bills, answered that it was not his interest to pay the principal, nor his principle to pay the interest.

A specimen of water from the Warm Springs, Spanish Fork Canyon, proved on examination to contain 413.72 grains of solid matter per gallon; 76.11 grains of sulphuric-anhydride per gallon; and 145.95 grains of chlorine per gallon.

Scene in the Intermediate Orthography class:—A student defined the word "average" as "something that a hen lays on." The teacher asked an explanation, and was answered by the pupil producing a patent medicine almanac and pointing at the following expression: "A hen lays on an average, twenty eggs per month."

A Sabbath-day's journey is 1,155 yards.

The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1829.

HOME MENTION.

The P. O. address of Bro. J. M. Tanner has been changed to the following: bei Robert Ludwig; 25 Mariannen Platz, Berlin, Ost, Germany.

Owing to the inadequate size of the Laboratory, the chemistry students have had the Music Room placed at their disposal during certain hours.

Work is suspended on the new B. Y. A. buildings for the season. The basement story is completed, and it is intended to resume operations early in the spring.

Section C, of the Polysophical Society, having for its field "Civil Government and Political Science" was reorganized for the present year on November 15, Nels L. Nelson being appointed Chairman by the Principal. Bro. John E. Booth has kindly consented to act as instructor in the Section, which will meet on every alternate Saturday evening.

A special session of the Society was called November 24, at which the President announced the addition to the Constitution of Article XVII, which directs that at the end of the year's session, the President shall award to all active members whose attendance shall have been fifty per cent. or more, certificates of membership. Persistent neglect in taking part in the labors of the Society will be considered cause for depriving members of their standing.

The Geology class accompanied by Principal K. G. Maeser and teachers of the Provo schools recently made a highly enjoyable and profitable visit to Spanish Fork Canyon. The party was met at the depot in Spanish Fork by the city teachers and the County Superintendent, provided with adequate and comfortable carriages, and all proceeded at once to the canyon. The highest point reached was the Warm Springs, all points of interest receiving due attention along the route. At the halting place lunch was served in excellent style by our Spanish Fork friends, and at the return in the evening a hearty vote of appreciation and thanks was rendered them.

Winter begins, astronomically, on the shortest day, December 21, and lasts 89 days. In the United States the winter months as commonly reckoned are December, January and February. In the Southern Hemisphere, by our style, the winter months are June, July and August.

A square acre is 209 feet on a side.

DOINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

Nov. 14—Section B. Music and Literary exercises by members. Lecture by Prin. K. G. Maeser, "Richard Wagner."

Nov. 15—Section C. Organization Meeting. Nels L. Nelson, Chairman.

Nov. 21—Section A. Literary exercises. Illustrated Lecture by Pres. J. E. Talmage—"The Sun."

Nov. 22—Section C. Discussion of Constitution of the United States.

Nov. 24—Special Session of the Society for business.

Nov. 28—Section B. Music and Readings. Lecture by Chairman Willard Done—"The Voice." Address by Prin. K. G. Measer—"Ancient Notation in Music."

Nov. 29—Public Lecture by Pres. J. E. Talmage—"The Birth and Growth of the Earth."

Dec. 5—Section A. Readings and Music. Lecture by Prin. K. G. Maeser—"Ancient and Modern Classics."

Dec. 6—Section C. Legislative Assembly.

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